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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875



REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Bradford-on-Avon Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1925

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL BY

W. JOHN A. ADYE

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE
BRADFORD-ON-AVON URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY*

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Medical Officer's Annual Report

To the URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BRADFORD-ON-AVON

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

My Report this year is not the same as usual, as it has to be a review of the past five years.

The Urban Area is a circle of two miles diameter, roughly divided in half by the River Avon, running through it from East to West.

The Population at the Census of 1921 was 4,621, it is now estimated by the Registrar General to be 4,994, an increase of 373.

Inhabited houses in 1921 numbered 1249, since that date 48 have been built, bringing the number up to 1297.

The manufacture of India Rubber is the staple industry, worked by two factories.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	{	Legitimate	67	
BIRTHS:	36	33	69		Illegitimate	2	<i>M.</i> 1 <i>F.</i> 1.
					Birth Rate, (R.G.) —		

			Total	M.	F.	
DEATHS	...	...	58	25	33	Death Rate, (R.G.) —
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth				...	...	{ From Sepsis ... 0 { From other causes 0

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 3, rate per 1,000 births 43·4.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0

There was no unusual, or excessive mortality during the year requiring any comment.

Three Inquests were held, Chronic Bright's Disease, Angina Pectoris and Premature Birth, all males.

All deaths were certified.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT

One whole-time Nurse for general nursing, none for Infectious Cases such as Measles. One whole-time Maternity Nurse, both of which are provided by voluntary subscriptions, and have nothing to do financially with the County or Urban Councils, except in acting as Health Visitor.

No other qualified Midwife is resident in the town.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, School Clinics, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases are all under the control of the County Council.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1921—1925

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Diphtheria	18	9	2	1	...	30
Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	4	2	...	1	7
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	...	3
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	5
	19	14	5	7	2	47

As will be seen by the above Table, there is no need to make any comment on the notifiable cases for this year. Pneumonia is not reported as it should be, only two cases being notified.

The solitary Case of Scarlet Fever was brought into the District.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS

	1921		1922		1923		1924		1925		TOTAL	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary ...	2	2	...	1	4	3	1	2	3	...	10	8
Other ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	2
	2	2	1	1	4	3	1	4	3	...	11	10
												21

Other Deaths, Males 3, Females 5, Total 8, all pulmonary; three were notified before 1921.

No Hospitals are provided, or subsidised by the Local Authority with the exception of the Isolation Hospital, which is situated at Trowbridge and is available for Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Enteric and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

There are no Hospitals in the District, but we are very favourably situated as Bath is only eight miles off and Patients can be sent there by car in the half hour, in Bath are the Royal United Hospital, The Mineral Water Hospital and the Ear, Throat and Nose Hospital, in addition the Clinic for Venereal Diseases is held at the Royal United Hospital. The Trowbridge Cottage Hospital is also used, and the Winsley Sanatorium for Phthisical Patients is only two and a half miles away.

No Institutional provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children other than the Workhouse at Warminster.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(a) For infectious Cases the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge has a Motor Ambulance for their removal.

(b) For non-infectious Cases and accidents there is a Motor Ambulance at Trowbridge, and failing that the Police Ambulance at Bath can be hired.

LABORATORY WORK

Swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Society and to the Laboratory attached to Bath Hospital free of charge to poor people.

HOUSING

On July 12th, 1920, work was commenced on the Sewers for what was hoped to be a lay-out of three hundred houses.

On January 2nd, 1921, work was begun on the first house, and has been going on steadily ever since, with the result that there are sixty-four houses built and inhabited. More are in various stages of erection and will be finished during the New Year.

Eleven houses have been built by private persons during the same period, nine of them being Bungalows and two Cottages, all of them received the assisting grant.

In spite of these seventy-four houses being built there seems to be almost as great a shortage as there was before, and it is simply impossible to condemn any of those now existing, as there is nowhere for the people to go.

The same remarks apply to overcrowding, the Council erected six cheaper houses at a rent of five shillings a week, to be let to people who were overcrowded, but even at that rent it was found that the wages and the size of the families made it prohibitive. Until the cost of materials and labour come down and houses can be erected at a much less cost than can be done at present, so long will overcrowding be present and children will not grow up into strong and healthy men and women, luckily for us we only have three houses back to back, and as the town is built on hills the houses get more air and sunshine than they would were it built on the flat.

It is a pity that there is no means of licensing all houses to be let or sold, according to the cubic capacity of the bed-rooms, so that when application was made for a house the owner would merely have to ask the total number of persons coming, and then if the number was more than the house was licensed for he would have to refuse. Were such an act or by-law ever to come into force I would give the Sanitary Authority power to prosecute whenever it was infringed.

BIRTHS REGISTERED

1921—1925

YEAR	BOYS			GIRLS			TOTAL
		Illegiti- mate	Total		Illegiti- mate	Total	
1921	42	2	44	41	2	43	87
1922	45	1	46	32	4	36	82
1923	29	...	29	31	2	33	62
1924	20	2	22	30	1	31	53
1925	35	1	36	32	1	33	69
	171	6	177	166	10	176	353

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS

	1921 M. F.	1922 M. F.	1923 M. F.	1924 M. F.	1925 M. F.	Total M. F.	Total
1 Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Measles	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
4 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
6 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Influenza	1	2	...	1	1	3	7
8 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	...	1	2	1	3	8
11 Other tuberculous Diseases	1	1	1	...	...	1	4
12 Cancer, malignant Disease	2	5	1	4	5	15	40
13 Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Diabetes	...	...	2	...	...	2	2
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	3	2	3	1	2	8	20
16 Heart Disease	1	5	4	2	3	15	38
17 Arterio-sclerosis	2	1	1	...	1	5	7
18 Bronchitis	1	2	3	4	2	14	24
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	3	1	1	1	5	9
20 Other respiratory Diseases	...	1	1	1	...	2	3
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	1	...	1	1

23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	2
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	4	8
26	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	2
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	2	2	2	...	3	2	1	...	2	...	10	14
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	3
31	Other defined Diseases	...	5	11	2	7	6	3	2	4	4	13	19	57
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
		14	34	24	30	25	26	20	26	25	33			
		48	54			51	46			58	108	149	257	

Forty-six deaths were registered during the year, to which must be added 12 from the various institutions outside the area, making a total of 58; equal to a death rate of —.

Cancer was the most fatal disease during the past year, as well as in the four preceding ones; 40 having occurred during the five years, or 15·5%, the proportion of males to females being 3 to 5.

Heart disease came next with a total of 38, and here again the females are in the majority, being 23 to 25.

Measles and Whooping Cough each accounted for one and Influenza for 7.

Below is a Table showing the number and type of

**HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE FIVE YEARS,
1921—1925**

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Private	{ Assisted ...	...	2	...	7	2	11
	{ Non-assisted	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	...	2	...	7	2	11
	Artisan ...	...	...	...	2	...	2
	Bungalow ...	...	2	...	5	2	9
	Residential...	...	...	...	...	...	...
U.D.C.	{ Assisted ...	16	16	4	12	16	64
	{ Non-assisted	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	16	16	4	12	16	64

These were all of Artisan type.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1925

 NUISANCE INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections made in 1925	...	...	642
" Informal Notices served	...	...	48
" " " complied with	...	...	42
" Statutory Notices served	...	...	1
" " " complied with	...	...	1

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

Number of Cowsheds	...	...	...	23
" Inspections	...	...	...	39
" Dairies	...	...	...	14
" Inspections	...	...	...	22

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES BUILT DURING 1925

16 Council Houses

2 Other Houses

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number of Slaughterhouses (registered)	...	...	3
" " out of use	...	...	1
" " (licensed)	...	...	3
" Inspections	...	...	312

There have been 7 cases in which Meat has been condemned.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections made in 1925	...	...	225
" Houses Inspected	...	...	95
" " Satisfactory	...	...	70
" " out of repair	...	...	25
" Informal Notices Served	...	...	25
" Statutory " "	...	...	4
" Notices complied with	...	...	21

R. B. LEES,

February 17th, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector.

WILTS COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

HOUSING ACTS, 1909-1925

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st
December, 1925, under the above Acts, in the Bradford-on-Avon
Urban District

Number of new Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	18
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority	... 16
(ii) By other bodies or persons	... 2

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses*

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 225

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 95

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 25

2. *Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 17

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 4

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursu- ance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	35
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which de-
fects were remedied after service of formal
notices :—

(a) By owners	32
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the
Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	nil
---	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
---	-----	-----	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	nil
--	-----	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	nil
--	-----	-----

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in
pursuance of Demolition Orders nil

R. B. LEES,

January 5th, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, if required is also supplied free of charge in necessitous cases, this very seldom happens, as cases are sent as soon as suspected into the Isolation Hospital.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS AND LOCAL
REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH
IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	...	<i>Adopted June, 1896</i>
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act	...	" <i>March, 1902</i>
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	" " <i>1900</i>
Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation	... ..	" <i>July, 1905</i>

With respect to :—

- (1) The cleansing of ashpits, privies,
earth closets and cesspits " "
- (2) The prevention of nuisances, arising
from snow, filth, dust, ashes and
rubbish, and for the prevention of
the keeping of animals on any
premises so as to be injurious to
health " "

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--------|---------------------------|
| (3) | With respect to New Streets and Building, and the alteration of Buildings | ... .. | <i>Adopted July, 1905</i> |
| (4) | The Licensing, Registering and Inspection of Slaughterhouses | ... .. | <i>" Feb, 24, 1908</i> |
| (5) | With respect to New Buildings | ... .. | <i>" May 12, 1919</i> |

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

One part-time Medical Officer of Health.

One part-time Sanitary Inspector.

The County Council pays a part of the Salaries of these Officials.

Health Visitors, School and special Nurses (Tuberculosis) are employed by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY

Except to the new Houses erected during the past five years, there has been no extension of the Water Supply.

Unless there is a heavy drought, when as a measure of precaution the hours of pumping are limited, there is an ample supply for all purposes.

FACTORY ACTS

During the past year thirty girls and twenty-four boys were examined for work, four were found to have carious teeth.

For the past five years an average of twenty men have been examined every month for symptoms of Lead Poisoning, none of which were found.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. A. ADYE.

